

(Crotalus oreganus)

• Up to 63" long

 Has venom twice as strong as Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake, but produces less venom



(Crotalus atrox)

- Up to 66" long Largest rattlesnake in the West
- Responsible for more bites and deaths to humans than any other rattlesnake species in U.S.



(Crotalus mitchellii)

- Color can vary greatly from nearly white to pink, gray or
- Color often matches their surroundings





(Crotalus pricei)

- Up to 26" long
- Small rattle sounds like insect
- One of four rattlesnake species with special protection in Arizona



(Crotalus lepidus)

- Up to 33" long
- Young use brightly colored tail to attract prey, but tail changes color as snake gets older
- One of four rattlesnake species with special protection in Arizona



(Crotalus molossus)

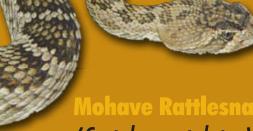
Up to 48" long

(Crotalus willardi)

• Up to 26" long

Color can vary greatly from brown or beige to green or golden yellow

• Gets its name from raised ridge of scales around front of snout

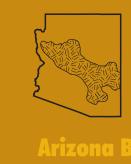


- Up to 50" long Widely considered most toxic rattlesnake in U.S.
- Easily confused with Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake



• Up to 25" long

- Travels in side-winding motion
- Only rattlesnake with horns over eyes



(Crotalus cerberus)

- Up to 42" long
- Young are vividly patterned and can look very different from adults



- Up to 64" long
- Reportedly used in famous Hopi snake dance ritual



(Crotalus tigris)

- Up to 35" long
- Small head doesn't hold much venom, but venom is powerful

Rattlesnake Facts:

- Scientists have identified 36 rattlesnake species.
- Rattlesnakes live only in North and South America.
- 13 species live in Arizona, more than any other state.
- Rattlesnakes use the "loreal pit," a heat-sensing organ between the nostril and eye to locate prey and potential predators.
- These snakes have glands that make venom, much like human saliva glands make saliva.
- The rattle is made of keratin, the same material found in human hair and fingernails.
- The age of a rattlesnake cannot be determined by counting the segments of its rattle.
- Rattlesnake prey may include small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and centipedes.
- According to Arizona Poison Centers, less than 1% of rattlesnake bites result in human deaths.



(Sistrurus catenatus)

- Up to 22" long
- Most primitive form of rattlesnake in U.S.
- One of four rattlesnake species with special protection in Arizona



Learn more about Arizona's rattlesnakes from the book "A Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles in Arizona" available for sale at Arizona Game and Fish Department offices, and through free lessons from the department's environmental education program at azgfd.gov/focuswild.